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L E T T E R

F R O M

The Mayor of the antient Borough  
of G U Z Z L E - D O W N ,

T O

Sir *Francis Wronghead*, &c.



[ Price 6*d.* ]



A  
L E T T E R

F R O M

The Mayor of the antient Borough  
of GUZZLE-DOWN,

T O

Sir *Francis Wronghead*,

T H E I R

R ——— ve in P ——— t,

In ANSWER to his

LETTER of the 19th of Feb. 1732.

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*Lepidum Caput, si Cerebrum haberet.*

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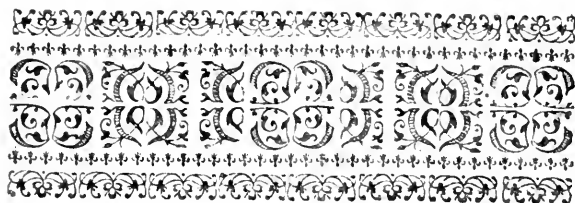
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A

# LETTER, &c.

S I R,

WE neither expected or desired any other Answer to the Letter which, by the unanimous Resolution of this ancient Corporation, was sent to you our Representative in P—t, the Beginning of last Month, than your ready and chearful Compliance, to what we therein requested of you, which was, to oppose any new Excise, or further Extension of the Laws of Excise, in whatever Shape it might be attempted.

WE form'd and establish'd the Right we have to make such a Demand, on the Practice of all Ages since the Establishment

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ment of Parliaments, and we apprehend it is the undoubted Right of every Corporation in *England*, to direct their Representatives in Points of Moment, especially in such Points as do so deeply and nearly affect the Liberties and the Properties of the People represented. That this has been the Practice of all Times, will appear most evidently, by the Precedents which History affords; and therefore, Sir, your Refusal to comply with the Sentiments of your Electors, in a Case of this Nature must, doubtless, be looked upon and resented, as the greatest Indignity that you could offer to a Body of Men; as a high Encroachment on their undoubted Right of judging for themselves, in a Case which relates intirely to their Liberties and Properties; and as a Breach of Trust, for which you may depend upon it, they will shew the highest and justest Resentment whenever they have an Opportunity to come to a new Election, at which Time they will most certainly, with Scorn and Contempt, reject the Man who so far from having espoused the nearest and dearest Interest of his Electors, has turned an Advocate for the very Grievance he has been requested to oppose, and has basely attempted, by wretched Sophistry, to support the vilest Scheme  
which

which Projector ever form'd, or Power enforc'd; a Scheme calculated to harrafs, scourge, oppress, and enslave the People of *England*, under the specious Pretence of giving them Ease, and under colour of reforming Abuses in Trade, establishing the greatest of Abuses, namely, that of exposing the Estates of *Englishmen* to the Mercy of tyrannical Excisemen, and their Liberties to the dangerous Influence these Officers, or rather Vermin, will most certainly have in all popular Elections, whenever they shall be established in that Fullness of Power a certain Gentleman is labouring to obtain for them.

WERE Excises a new Thing, and with which the Nation was unacquainted, we should not have been perhaps so peremptory in our Demand of your Opposition to them in any Shape whatsoever; but as we are by woful Experience, too fully convinced of the Evils they are big with, and the Terrors with which they are accompanied, and as we further know, that how much soever the Ministry might be willing to soften and mitigate them, it is not in their Power (the Nature of Excises cannot admit of it) to make the Burthen easy; as this is the Case, we

could not avoid making our Request very much resemble a Command; and we expect you'll comply with it, since no Reason or Argument can change the Nature of a Thing, or make it be what it is not; and if you are gain'd over to a Liking and Approbation of such a Scheme as this, the Reasons and Arguments which have convinc'd you may be easily guess'd at.

WE have long chosen you to be our Representative in P——t, for which Reason we expected with the greater Assurance, you would not have deserted us in the only Point we have ever been so strongly solicitous about; we flatter'd ourselves, that in return for the great Confidence you have so long found us willing to repose in you, you would on this Occasion have stood by us, and not basely betray'd us in a Matter on which all that is dear to us depends: But since you have by this Conduct cancelled all former Attachments, I hope by ours at a new Election, we shall convince the World that *Englishmen* will never forgive the Invaders of their Liberties; and notwithstanding you are so strongly supported by your numerous Relations, who are Men in great Power, and may probably carry the Point you are now become

come an Advocate for ; we could wish you would, before it be too late, consider that even your Success may be the Cause of your Overthrow, as well as that of your Confederates, who, powerful as they are, may have Reason one Day to dread the just Resentment of an Injured People.

I shall however, as you seem to aim at something like Argument in your Letter to us of the 19th of this Month, consider what you therein advance ; and I still hope, that if you have not already too deeply drank of the Waters of Corruption, you may yet be brought over ere it be too late, and thereby avoid the eternal Remorse you will certainly be attended with, should you, for Views you will not dare to own, concur in the Overthrow of the Constitution of your Country ; or, which is the same thing, join in any Vote by means of which Excises may become General.

You seem to be under a very great Surprize, that it should enter into any Man's Head to be afraid of a General Excise ; you treat it as a Chimæra, and as a Terror vainly spread ; you ask *Who ever form'd such a Project ? Who ever supported or defended it ? Were such a thing*  
to

*to be projected, what Possibility of meeting Success?* In answer to which, I am of Opinion, that when Wine and Tobacco are excis'd, it may be said with great Justice and Propriety of Speech, that the Excise is General, and all you can then pretend to say, will be, that it is not universal; and how long it may be ere it becomes universal, I won't pretend to say; I will only assert, that the same Reasons you urge for the Necessity of excising Wines and Tobacco, will equally hold good for almost every other Sort of Imported Commodities, since there are doubtless in every Branch of Trade, some fraudulent Dealers; and when Sophistication of Wine is talked of with so much Warmth, I could wish it were confin'd to Wine only, and that the Politician, the Statesman, the Lawyer, nay, even the Divine, were free from the Imputation of Sophistication in their respective Callings. But to return to a General Excise; altho' you deny that Excises can ever become General in this Kingdom, yet in the 32d Page of your Letter you acquaint us, that already Excisemen are general and swarm in all Parts of *England*, which is not very agreeable News: You say, that *as to the Dangers insinuated from the Increase of the Number of Officers, you have inquired*  
*into*

*into that Matter, and are credibly inform'd, that there are so few additional Places to be survey'd, which are not already under Survey for some exciseable Commodity, that the Number to be added, will not be considerable enough to make a Murmur; a melancholy Reflection this, and must, I think, be a strong Reason rather to lessen than increase the Evil; for although you at present tell us One hundred and Fifty Officers added will suffice, we must beg Leave to be doubtful of the Truth of this Assertion; for if the Brewers of Wine are to be so narrowly watch'd, as 'tis pretended, I fear a much greater Addition will prove insufficient, and the Number of them must be such, as will add a Weight to those already establish'd, which will infallibly press the Constitution to death.*

BUT before I proceed to consider any of the Arguments in your Letter, I must take Notice of an Insinuation you make, that in our Request to you, we have only prated like Parrots, and talk'd after another Body of Men: In answer to this, I beg Leave to inform you, that Reason and common Sense is the same in every Part of *England*; and that although our Request to you was worded almost in  
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the same Manner as that of the Citizens, Merchants and Traders of *London*, yet we only followed that Form because it was full, clear and dutiful, and that it perfectly described our Sentiments, in a Stile and Manner which we could not mend; and as to any Influence Dealers in Wine and Tobacco in *London* may have over their several Correspondents in the Country, we don't look upon it to be the Sort of Influence which a Pensioner is under to a M——r, which causes him to speak and act as he is commanded: For as the Dealers in *London* are Gainers by every Transaction they have with us, we are free from any other Influence, than what they can gain upon us by the Force of Reason, and their greater Experience in Trade: But as to the Affair at present in Question, the sad Experience we have of the Miseries of Excise Laws, and what we feel in common with them, made us as uniform in our Application to our Representatives, to be defended against any further Extension of them, as we shall be in the Detestation of those Men, who are determin'd (without any emergent Necessity of the State calling for it) to extend them, and wantonly subject a numerous Body of Men to the Slavery, which is the certain Attendant on Excises:

Before



Before we dismiss this Article, we must observe you endeavouring to excite a Jealousy amongst the Country Traders against those in *London*, by asserting the latter have obtained almost a Monopoly in the Tobacco and Wine Trades; this is so far from being true, that we are satisfied the Out-ports have their full Share of both Trades; and as to the Wine Trade, we know we have for several Years past gained very considerably on the Port of *London*, and continue gaining upon them, by Reason of the Excess they pay in Duties, which being about Four Pounds *per* Ton, enables many of the Out-ports to under-sell the *London* Importers almost at their own Doors; for the Truth of which we appeal to the Custom-house Books, whereby it will appear that the Importation of Wines has increased in the Out-ports, and decreased at *London* for several Years past.

You next, with an Air of great Learning, are so good as to open to us the Original of Human Governments and Societies, and tell us that *one of the Principles of Government, is to secure the Properties and Liberties of each Individual, from the Rapine and Injustice of other Individuals of the same Society; for which*

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*Purpose Taxes were first instituted, and are necessary:* We are really much obliged to you, good Sir *Francis Wronghead*, for the great Pains you have been at in this verbose and eloquent Dissertation; but you might have spared your self the Trouble of convincing us of a Truth nobody in his Senses will contradict or dispute; we all agree, that *Taxes are necessary for the Support of Government, and the Preservation of the Individuals of Societies*; and yet, allowing this, how you can infer from this Doctrine, that these necessary Taxes ought to be raised by way of Excise, I cannot imagine; I believe that Excises will rather expose *the Properties and Liberties of each Individual, to the Rapine and Injustice of other Individuals of the same Society*, than defend them from it; and this being grounded on certain Experience, is greatly stronger than a bare speculative Opinion; thus according to your own Argument, Excises are a very improper Kind of Tax, since they expose us to those very Inconveniencies which you say Taxes are necessary, and were first instituted to prevent.

IN the next Place, you acquaint us with a Thing, which, God knows, we are but too well apprized of, and very  
heavily

heavily feel, that we labour under an almost insupportable *National Debt*, which you inform us has been *contracted for the just and necessary Defence of our Religion, Liberties and Properties*; this is a very sad, a very melancholly Truth: But pray, Sir *Francis*, would you have us for this Reason taxed in such a Manner as must inevitably destroy those very *Liberties and Properties*, which we have run into this immense Debt to defend and preserve.

You next, to what End or Purpose I know not, introduce the Sinking Fund, on which you bestow very great and just Encomiums; but what this is to the present Case I know not: I readily agree that this Fund is the greatest Blessing we enjoy, as it gives us a distant Prospect of seeing from its Produce the Debt of the Nation gradually lessened, and at one time or other paid off, unless it shou'd be too often finger'd; 'tis this, and this alone which makes the publick Creditor easy, and keeps up the Price of our Funds at Market. I hope therefore, that the Honourable Gentleman who is desirous of being thought the Father of it, will cherish it as a favourite Child ought to be cherish'd, and not in Imitation of *Saturn*, devour his own Offspring, nor suffer any of his

Retinue to drop any thing either within Doors or without, which may make us think it in Danger of being lessened by too frequent Nibblings and Diminutions, or intirely seized on to supply any sudden Occasion.

HAVING now clear'd away the several Coats and Integuments, which you have wrapp'd up and obscur'd your Argument in, I come to consider the weighty Reasons you advance why Tobacco and Wines should at this Time be put under the Laws of Excise: these I shall consider in the Order you place them in your Letter.

YOUR first Position is, that *the Land Tax is the most grievous and the most unequal of all our Taxes*, and therefore should no longer be rais'd; but that an Excise on Wines and Tobacco ought to supply its Place.

IN my humble Opinion, a Tax may be justly said to be grievous, when the Charge and Manner of collecting it is so; when the Officers, who are appointed to levy it, must necessarily be arm'd with Powers, which if not quite Arbitrary, come so near it, as to render the Properties  
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of the Subject precarious, and expos'd to most unjust Depredations, and oppressive Fines; when the Methods on which the enforcing the Payment of a Tax depends, make People uneasy, and molest them in their Habitations, harrassing them with continual Vexations in their Trades, causing them to lose a great Part of their Time in attending Commissioners to answer to, and defend themselves from frivolous or villainous Informations: When a Tax is enforced by Laws which are to be construed and finally explain'd by Commissioners put in by the M——r, and removeable at Pleasure, when Juries shall no longer be allowed to interpose between the Tradesman and his Oppressor, and when finally the great Number of Officers, which are necessary to collect this Tax, must endanger the very Constitution itself; such a Tax is, I say, (and all the World must pronounce it to be) very grievous, and not to be borne by a free People. But as the Land Tax is not to be charged with any of these Inconveniencies, being collected by Parish Officers at a very small Expence, like a Church Rate; and as all these Grievances, and many more I think it needless to repeat, are the certain Concomitants of Excises, none but the Head of your Family, Sir *Francis Wronghead*,  
would

would ever talk of the grievous Nature of a Land Tax, and urge that for a Reason, why the greatest of Grievances an Excise, should be substituted in its Place.

OH but say you, is it not reasonable that the Landed Interest, after having contributed so largely, ever since the Revolution, to the Service of the Publick, should now in these happy Times of Peace and Tranquility, taste the Sweets of Repose, and be eas'd of a Burthen which has so long lain heavy on it; I answer, 'tis very Just all Degrees of Men should, in Times of Peace, feel some Relief from the Miseries of Taxes; but as there is so strong, so indissoluble a Connection between the Landed and Trading Interest in this Nation, I will lay it down as an undeniable Maxim, that Land can never find Ease from any Scheme that loads or in any manner clogs Trade, of which I intend to speak more largely by and by. In the mean time if we consider, that by far the greatest Part of the Landed Estates in this Nation have changed Hands since the Revolution, and the Establishment of Land Taxes; and as Estates thus sold, have been sold subject to the Outgoings of Land Tax, the Purchasers have had an adequate Compensation in the  
Prices

Prices they have paid for those Out-goings ; and consequently to these the Land Tax is no more a Burthen, than it is for any one who has bought an Estate subject to a Fee Farm Annuity, to pay such an Annuity ; and as for those Estates which still remain in the same Families they were in at the Revolution, I appeal to those Gentlemen, whether their Estates do not, from the advanced Rents their Tenants pay them, produce more, or full as much, clear to them, after the Land Tax is deducted, as they produced to them before such Tax was instituted. If this Fact be undeniably true, and I defy you to prove it to be false, it will follow, that although the Landlord appears to be *primâ Facie*, the Person that pays the Land Tax, yet as he is reimburs'd from the advanced Rents of his Farms, the Load no longer lies on him as a Land-holder, but from him is thrown on the Farmer : and I shall in the next Place consider who takes the Burthen from the Shoulders of the Farmer ; in which Enquiry it will appear, that the Land Tax is so far from being an unequal Tax, that no Tax can be devised, which is at the long Run so minutely subdivided as this, and consequently no Tax so desirable. It will appear, that of this Tax what the Consumer

of our Home Produce does not pay, centers at last on our Manufactures, and thereby falls on Trade; from which the strong Connection between Land and Trade, will appear in full Light.

IN the preceding Paragraph, I left the Land-holder reimbursed of the Land Tax by the Farmer, let us now see how the Farmer gets rid of the Burthen; and this he cannot possibly have any means of doing, but by disposing of the Produce of his Farm in such a Manner, as to repay himself for the advanced Rent he pays his Landlord: When Trade flourishes, and the Merchant meets Encouragement by advantageous Markets Abroad, he chearfully allows the Manufacturer a living Profit; this enables the Manufacturer to pay the Farmer a good Price for Wooll or other Product, and he in consequence of this, is enabled to pay his Rent chearfully, and lay up something for his Family, and the Landlord is by these Means reimbursed what he paid for Taxes: Here you see at one View, how immediately all these Blessings depend on Trade, which is the grand Spring and the *primum mobile* of the Whole. What a bad *Englishman*, and how much worse Politician, must he then be, who thinks he can give Ease to the  
Landed



Landed Interest, by any Method which makes Trade either difficult or precarious; and I will venture to lay down one infallible Rule, whereby the grand Question, which has of late been moved, concerning the flourishing or declining Condition of our Trade, may be calculated with much more Certainty, than from the Quantity of strong Beer drank in any cloathing Town; a Point which a judicious Author has drawn very comfortable Consequences from lately; not, perhaps, duly weighing that Sorrow is Dry, and that People may drink to drive Care away: The Rule I mean is, that when you are asked concerning the State of Trade, if you shall on Enquiry find that the Farmers in general pay their Rents well, you may safely pronounce, that Trade flourishes, and so *vice versa*: For when our Merchants shall be out-done by their Rivals in Trade at foreign Markets, and shall have their Returns excised at Home, and enhanced Abroad, the first thing they will do, will be to beat down the Manufacturer in the Price of his Goods; he falls upon the Farmer; and the Farmer being obliged to sell his Produce cheaper than he can afford it, runs into Arrears with his Landlord, on whom the Loss at

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last must unavoidably and certainly center, and it falls on him with redoubled Weight. I hope from a due Consideration of this, the landed Gentlemen will avoid the Bait that is laid for them, and not come into a Scheme which cannot ease them, as is plausibly pretended. To which I will add one more Consideration; and that is, that when an Excise shall be established, they have no Security that they shall continue long free from a Land Tax; and that Taxes have, after a small Intermiſſion, been revived, let the Salt Tax declare: They may therefore have the Mortification of seeing their Rents abated by this intended Burthen on Trade, and be further saddled with Land Tax into the Bargain, as soon as the Wants of the M——r may call for it; and who can say how long it may be before a M——r may pretend Wants?

I would have every *Englishman* further consider, one very wide and great Difference between a Land Tax and an Excise; which is, that a Land Tax is granted from Year to Year, and that as long as the Supply for the Service of the current Year depends on that, we are fully assured that P——ts  
will

will always be necessary, and the People of *England* will never want an Opportunity of Meeting, by their Representatives, to grant that Part of the Supply; at which Times, should they happen to have any Grievances, they may insist on having them redress'd previously to any other Deliberations; and had not this Advantage been taken in former Times, arbitrary Power might have long since been established amongst us; and if ever we give up this most valuable Part of our Rights and Privileges, and in the room of a yearly Tax establish a perpetual one, which from the Moment it is granted is out of our Power to recall; what an unhappy Prospect shall we have of our Liberties if ever (which God forbid) a Prince desirous of arbitrary Power should sit on this Throne, and can supply the current Expences of the Year without the Assistance of P——t. Therefore if the Excises you are contending for should increase even more than the great Sum you expect from them, I should think even that should be a very strong Argument not to grant them. I flatter my self that all true *Englishmen*, who are unbiass'd by any Dependance on the M——r, will think as I do: And really I would have every Pensioner, if there be

any such Person in the H——ble H—— of C——, consider what he is doing: If by extending Excises the M——ry should be able to act without a P——t, Pensions will from that Time cease, the Wages of Iniquity will be no longer paid, and you, among the rest, will become an useless Tool, be quite laid aside, neglected and despised by the Man who corrupted you, and curs'd and scorn'd by every honest Man. I hope therefore, since the true Interest of your Country can't move you, you will consider your own in this Point, and not come into a Scheme which will very soon exclude you from all further Pretensions on the T——y.

HAVING thus briefly, and I hope satisfactorily, shew'd that Land Taxes are neither grievous or unequal, that Excises will be an unsupportable Burthen on Trade, and that nothing which loads Trade can ease Land; I proceed to consider what remains of your most excellent Epistle.

You begin your Accusation on the Wine and Tobacco Trades, by saying it is necessary to lay it down as a Truth, (I suppose you mean whether it be Fact or not) that great and monstrous Frauds are com-

committed in the Importation and Exportation of these two Commodities. As to Wine, I defy you, Sir *Francis Wronghead*, to shew any Frauds in the Importation or Exportation of that Commodity, which can deserve the Epithet of Monstrous; for the Truth of which I appeal to an Account of the few Seizures made on that Article for seven Years past; and, unluckily for you, it happens, that no Branch of Trade is so free from all Imputation of Smuggling as the Wine Trade; however, that Frauds are committed in all Trades I am willing to own, and that an Importer of Tobacco may by Collusion of the Officer that weighs, and an Importer of Wines by that of him that gauges, defraud the Revenue; but this cannot prove that this Evil would be remedied by an Excise, unless you shew that Excise Officers are composed of Materials not subject to Bribery; and if such Men were to be found, why are not Landwaiters and Gaugers chosen from amongst them? or why should they not rather be advanced to much higher Stations? I could, I believe, place between two or three hundred such Men in Posts, where they would be able to do their Country much better Service both in Church and State,

State, than in the Excise-Office or Custom-House.

You, in the next place, lay a heavy Charge on the Wine Traders, by asserting, that the greatest Part of what Wine is sold in Publick-Houses, is nothing but a poisonous Composition, made up of unknown Materials: This you say is an undeniable Truth; and I must tell you, Sir *Francis*, it is an undeniable Bull for any one to assert a Composition to be poisonous at the same Time he professes he is ignorant of the Ingredients. I am afraid, Sir *Francis*, you have kept ill Company since you have been in Town; and I am jealous that you have from this Bull, and another in relation to the Weights of Tobacco, in Page 13. equally *Teaguisb*, been a little too conversant with a certain *Irish Dear Jey*, who has distinguish'd himself under the Name of *CARUS*. But to proceed; As to the Brewers of Wine, who are charged, as well in your Letter as in other Ministerial Writings, with increasing the Quantity of foreign Wines imported to double that Quantity; or converting twenty-five thousand Tons into Fifty; this Assertion, void as it is either of Modesty or Common Sense, I will, for Argument sake,

fake, allow, and having consider'd this Practice impartially, go on with you, and consider further, whether it ought to be prevented, or whether the Remedy will not be worse than the Disease.

WHEN a Set of Men are mark'd out for Oppression, 'tis the general Practice to abuse, vilify, and run them down, painting them in such Colours as may, if possible, deprive them of the good Opinion and Compassion of Mankind, as well as of the Protection of the Laws: In this Manner has the whole Body of Wine Traders, without any Distinction, been treated, and accused with such Bitterness that no Conduct could have deserved; and all from a Design to render them odious for what they no wise are guilty of. It happens indeed pretty fortunately for these Men, that, if what you alledge against them be true, their Actions are far from bringing a Loss to the Nation, but are of great Advantage to it.

THE Amount of the Charge in the Indictment laid against these People, is, That whereas the annual Consumption of foreign Wines in this Kingdom would, were Wines to be drank neat as they are imported,  
amount

amount to full fifty thousand Tons; they, by various Mixtures of our Home Produce, manage Matters so, as to make an Importation of twenty-five thousand Tons supply that Consumption; against the Peace of our Sovereign Lord the King, his Crown, and Dignity, &c.

To this they plead, That although the Accusation were true, they think they do the Nation no harm, but, on the contrary, by this their extraordinary Skill, they save annually a very great Sum to the Nation. For were the twenty-five Thousand Tons of Wine, which their Ingenuity supplies, to be purchased in *France, Portugal, or Spain*, it would, at the moderate Price of twenty Pounds *per* Ton, amount to five hundred Thousand Pounds *per Annum*, which would be against us in the Ballance of Trade; and further, that were we, instead of twenty-five, to buy at the several Markets of *Europe* fifty thousand Tons of Wine yearly, that increas'd Demand would infallibly enhance the Price forty *per Cent.* which would be eight Pounds *per* Ton advanc'd on fifty thousand Tons, which would amount to four hundred thousand Pounds *per Annum* more; so that this in-



intolerable Crime laid to their Charge, would appear to save nine hundred thousand Pounds *per Annum*; and if it is supposed that Cyder and Perry should be the chief Articles of this Increase, they apprehend the Revenue is thereby greatly improved, by the Expence of that Part of our Home Produce, and that the landed Interest in *Herefordshire*, and other Cyder Countries at least, is much benefitted by it. It has always been allowed as a Truth not be contested, that every Article of Luxury imported into this Nation, and to be consumed in it, is a dead Loss to this Nation; and I am sorry that the Article of Wine, even on the Foot it now stands of an Importation of twenty-five thousand Tons, should run away with so large a Sum yearly; for according to the Price, which have of late Years been paid for Port Wines, which Article alone is one Half of the whole Quantity imported, the twenty-five thousand Tons we Import do not cost less than twenty-four Pounds *per Ton* in an Avarage Abroad, which comes to six hundred thousand Pounds, paid yearly out of the Ballance of our Trade for Wine: Is not the Expence of this Article sufficient? And would it be advisable to encrease it? I should think by

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no

no means; but could these Wine Brewers, whom you treat with such Infamy, by any Art, Skill, or Ingenuity, supply from our Home Produce this whole Article, I should think them a most valuable Set of Men; I am sure the Nation would be more obliged to them than to any other Body of Men you can name. And if they defraud their Fellow Subjects by their Brewing, they keep the Money in the Nation; which I think is a very great Atonement for that Crime: For as to the Charge of poisoning, 'tis ridiculous to assert it without saying and proving that they use noxious or unwholesome Materials in their increas'd Quantity, since, if every compounded Liquor is poisonous, what will become of the Juleps and Cordial Draughts prescribed by the Faculty, which are composed of unknown Materials, and consequently, by your *Hibernian* Logick, must also be poisonous?

METHINKS I see you now ready to take Fire, and ask; What! Shall we suffer the People of *England* to be imposed upon, and pay for Cyder and Perry, &c. at the Price of Wine? I grant it would be wrong, and if you'll please to keep  
your

Your Temper, Sir *Francis*, I will endeavour to shew you the Wine Brewers do not pocket up the whole Difference.

'Tis a known Maxim, that a Retailer of Wines cannot live unless he sells for an Advance of above fifty *per Cent.* so great is the Expence, Waste, and Charge of drawing Wines in a Tavern, where the Vintner pays a great Rent for his House, is obliged to keep many Servants, and burns many Candles and Coals, uses a great deal of Soap in washing Linen, all which Necessaries are tax'd and excis'd, and are used more plentifully now in Taverns, from the increased Luxury of their Customers, than they used to be in former Times. There are many Cellars, where Wines are retail'd, which sell Port Wines at five Shillings *per* Gallon, and many Taverns which sell out of Doors at the same Rate, and yet these People cannot buy a Pipe of real neat Port Wine, that is of the best Quality, of the Merchant Importer, for less than thirty-eight to forty Pounds *per* Pipe first Cost, which is about six Shillings and six Pence *per* Gallon: From this it is plain, that if they lower the Quality of their Wines by Mixtures, they abate proportionably

tionably in the Price they sell it for, and their Customers have it the cheaper: And that they content themselves with a moderate Profit appears from the few Vintners who leave off their Trades, and retire with Estates.

To sum up the Evidence therefore, I think it will appear to be by no means adviseable, to run the Hazard of obliging this Nation to lay out near One Million yearly in Wines more than they now do; and of the two Evils, I should rather think it prudent to leave the Wine Brewers in the quiet Possession of their unrighteous Gains, than by preventing their Practices, run the Nation to an Expence which would be our Ruin, and turn the Ballance of Trade so much against us; for what these People get remains amongst us, so that we may fairly conclude the Remedy would be much worse than the Disease. I shall dismiss this Article by observing, that an Excise on Wines is ridiculous, as well as dangerous. Since I have, I think, proved that it would highly injure the Nation, should it be effectual to prevent the only Thing charged as an Abuse on the Wine Trade,  
and

and what you say is *the great and avowed End of the intended Proposal.*

As to the universal Dislike this Scheme has been received with, by all Sorts and Degrees of Men in all Parts of the Kingdom, and which you modestly treat as a Clamour raised by a few Inconsiderable *Jacobites and Republicans*; you yourself know, and so does the chief Person concerned in forwarding this Scheme, that this is by no means the State of the Case; and whilst you with *Terror* behold the Flame you have rais'd, you would be glad you could persuade your Confederates, that this is no more than a little Party Heat, which will immediately die of itself: You may chance to be mistaken in this Point, and find it to be a Fever attended with worse Symptoms than you care to own. If the People who are against this Project are Jacobites and Republicans, I am very sorry to hear that Nine Parts in Ten of the Nation should be ranged under those Heads; for I am persuaded, that Nine Parts in Ten detest the Scheme and its Author. It is the common Method of the present Times, to brand with the Name of Jacobite whoever opposes a certain Gentleman

tleman in any manner; but this is a mean and dishonest Way of treating the truest Friends to the Constitution of *England*, and the Principles of Liberty on which it is founded; and consequently the truest Friends to the present Illustrious Family which sits on the *British* Throne: And whoever is the Cause of Disaffection, if he is not himself a Jacobite, acts in the very manner which a Jacobite desires he should act in; and I should rather incline to believe, that this Scheme had its original Rise amongst that Set of People, since nothing can, in my Opinion, more effectually give Life to their expiring Faction, than an Attempt, which goes so much against the Grain of the whole Nation, and carries Disaffection along with it. To conclude this Point, when unnatural Schemes are push'd on without the least Regard to the Sentiments of the whole Nation, I shall never wonder at any Union of different Sects to oppose them, how unnatural soever that might appear on any other Occasion; and from this very Incident may be gathered, that when *Englishmen* are attack'd in the essential Points of Liberty and Property, every Distinction of Party and Principle ceases, and they become unanimous to save their

All

All from Ruin. I should therefore think it matter of Prudence, not to push any further, a Scheme you must, if you are not blinded by Folly, know to be highly distastful to the Nation, and may in its Consequences be dangerous to all. Accept this Advice, and take it in good Part; it comes from the Heart of a True *Englishman*, zealous for the Liberties and Properties of the Subject, well affected to his Majesty the King and his Issue, and desirous that he may long reign in the Hearts and Affections of a Generous, Brave and Free People.

*I am,*

Dated at *Guzzle Down*,  
Feb. 28, 1732.

*Your's, &c.*

The MAYOR.

P. S. I HAD almost forgot to Remark, that when you mention the small Increase of Excise Officers, which will be necessary to collect the Duties on Wine and Tobacco, you argue that no Danger can accrue to our Liberties, from so inconsiderable a Number as will be added;  
but

but you should have considered how very considerable a Body of Subjects, the Terrors of these Laws will be extended over; and as from thence, a slavish Dependance must naturally arise, it is not in the Power of your Sophistry to dissemble the Danger the Liberties of this Nation must be exposed to from such a Dependance.

*F I N I S.*









